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September 8, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. 
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **HEALTH FACILITIES INSPECTION DIVISION**

On April 18, 2006, as a result of reduced State funding for inspections of health facilities and a resulting backlog of new facilities seeking licensing, your Board took the following action:

Instructed the Acting Director of Health Services to:

- Conduct a full review of the health facility inspection process;
- Work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel and negotiate with the State Department of Health Services on amending the County's licensure and certification contract No. 05-45391 with the State.

On June 29, 2006, I provided you with a review of the Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) and a discussion of the major problems its staff has faced over the past few years as a result of State budget cuts. On July 20 and August 3, I provided you with status reports.

We have still not received information from the State about our budget allocation for this fiscal year or any information on the State's plan to reduce the backlog in new applications for licensing and certification. The State has instructed our inspection staff to concentrate exclusively on the federal Tier 1 workload (primarily nursing home inspections) through September 30, in order to meet federal workload targets by the end of the federal fiscal year. I will communicate our concerns to the State again and let you know the response.

I will provide you with a further update by September 30, 2006. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:lm
604:016

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors